



CAVAN PAWSON



High hopes: a block on the Clem Attlee estate in Fulham which has had a positive uptake of its green initiatives. Above is one of the mini-recycling banks for residents' rubbish

**MARK PRIGG AND
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A HOUSING estate in Fulham has one of the most improved recycling rates in the country.

The Clem Attlee Estate has adopted a series of green measures on a trial basis including recycling chutes and mini-recycling banks on each floor.

Today, figures reveal that after six months the estate has boosted participation in recycling to 98 per cent.

It is now hoped the scheme will be rolled out across the capital.

John Twitchen of Sauce, the environmental consultancy which ran the project, said: "Collecting recycled rubbish from high-rise blocks is difficult, so we wanted to try a few different ideas here, and see what works."

"We've been incredibly pleased with the results, and we are now very hopeful that this could form a blueprint for every high-rise block in London."

Recycling is historically low in high-rises because of the logistical difficulties of collecting rubbish from all the floors. The scheme in Fulham tried to adapt existing facilities wherever possible and Mr Twitchen said: "We found several blocks had two rubbish chutes on each floor, so we simply used one for recycling. It's a simple change, but it worked very well."

As well as that and the mini-recycling banks on each floor to store recycling, which was collected twice a week, residents in several blocks also had doorstep collections.

Mr Twitchen said: "We found that all the schemes worked well but they really depended on the facilities available. For instance, doorstep collections need wide walkways, and the recycling chute obviously requires two rubbish chutes to be available."

"However, what we found is that all these schemes work well, so we are

Recycling rate soars to 98% after estate adopts green scheme



Chute fan: Correan Mayers now finds it easier to recycle

THREE MEASURES BENEFITTING THE RESIDENTS

A SERIES of recycling schemes were given a trial in different buildings on the Clem Attlee Estate.

Recycling chute

In one of the high-rise buildings, a second rubbish chute was turned into a recycling chute. Instead of carrying recycling downstairs, residents dropped it into the chute through which it passed into large bins for collection.

The system was simple to install, as signs simply had to be put into place making residents aware of the change.

Mini-banks

In lower-rise blocks mini recycling stations were installed on each floor. These allowed residents simply to dump their bags of recycling into the bins provided. Twice weekly collections removed the bags, with collection days

changed to gauge their effectiveness.

Doorstep collections

In blocks where walkways and stairways were wide enough, recycling could simply be left outside residents' doors for a weekly collection. This resulted in the least amount of work for residents, although they did have to store the recycling bags inside their flat until collection day.

hopeful Fulham will continue with them, and that other councils will also consider taking them on." Results show that the number of people not recycling after six months went down from nearly 20 per cent to only two per cent.

Correan Mayers, a 21-year-old mother who lives on the estate, said: "I recycle a lot. Before, I used to carry it down but [the chute] is a lot better. People just used to throw things away but I think more people are recycling."

Tula Reid, 72, singled out the chute

system for particular praise and said: "It is good because now you just put everything in a big bag and put it in the chute. It is easy and it's a good idea because not everyone can go outside — good luck to those who can."

But Elsie Read, 80, said she preferred to dispose of her recycling manually. She said: "Even though it's easy to put my recycling in the chute I prefer to carry it outside myself. It gives me a bit of a walk and I like the exercise."

Staff at the estate also reported huge

improvements in the general tidiness of the area — with recyclable waste being diverted, bins no longer overflow.

David Bowler of the North Fulham New Deal for Communities, which ran the scheme said: "This shows that residents want to do their bit for the environment, despite the difficult economic times. We hope that residents will continue to benefit from this service."

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